and study on Ocean life to the Central Government seeking its support and participation of Central Government by 50% of the cost; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The M inistry of Earth Sciences has a scheme for setting an Oceanarium in the country with objectives of pursuing Science on Marine Biology, Marine Chemistry, Marine Ecosystem etc. as well bringing awareness about the Marine Flora and Fauna to the general public.

The selection of site for the Oceanarium will be done considering Ocean Science and Technology base, suitable site availability, connectivity from land and Ocean and tourist potential.

Seismic surveys capability of Sagar Nidhi

2529. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the newly acquired Rs. 230 crore ship "Sagar Nidhi" is also having "seismic surveys" capabilities, apart from obtaining oceanographic and Hydrographic information, so that availability of crude oil and gas could also be found without incurring any extra capital expenditure or operational costs; and

(b) if so, would software, if any, required for the purpose be designed in consultation with ONGC, Oil India etc.?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. The newly acquired vessel Sagar Nidhi is a Technology Demonstration Vessel and does not have seismic survey capability.

(b) Dose not arise.

Categorization of earthquake prone areas

2530. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earthquake prone areas have been classified into various categories in the country;

(b) if so, the norms adopted for the classification;

(c) the earthquake resistant measures undertaken by Government during each of the last three years, category-wise; and

(d) the details of the allocation made and expenditure incurred by Government in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes.l Si*

(b) These areas have been classified based on the data available from past earthquake event. Particularly in terms of occurrences, frequencies and intensities over different regions of the country. The Bureau of Indian Standards has divided the country broadly into four